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SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INFORMATION for ANNUAL REPORT, 1936, as required by Circular 1561.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	93,216
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population 1936.....	7,662
No. of inhabited houses according to Rate Books end of 1936.....	2,326
Rateable value.....	£18,721
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.....	£97

The chief Industry if Agriculture.

The District is composed of 29 Parishes. The population of the Area is scattered.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births, Legitimate.....	104	60	44
Illegitimate.....	6	5	1
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population.	14.4		
Still Births.....	5	4	1
Rate per 1,000 total (Live or Still) Births.....	4.35		
Deaths.....	89		
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population.	11.6		

Deaths from Puerperal causes. (Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar General's Short List..... Nil.

	Deaths.	Rate for 1,000 total Live & Still Births.
No.29 Puerperal Sepsis...	Nil	Nil
No.30 Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total.....	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.... 2

All Infants per 1,000 live births..... 18.18

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births..... 13.5

Illegitimate do. ..... Nil.

Deaths from Cancer all ages..... 17

Deaths from Measles " ..... Nil

Deaths from Whooping Cough, all ages..... Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)... Nil

General provision of Health Services for the Area.

(1) Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

(a) District Medical Officer of Health.
(b) Sanitary Inspector (Certified Royal Sanitary Institute, London).
(c) Meat and Foods Inspector. ditto ditto.

No Health Visitors or Assistants are employed by the Council.

(2) Nursing in the Home.

(a) General. No nursing is provided by the Local Authority. A County Council Health Visitor visits the majority of the parishes in the Area in connection with Child Welfare.

(3) Infectious Diseases. There is no provision made for ordinary infectious diseases.

Midwives. The Local Authority does not employ or subsidize Midwives. The County Council is the supervision Authority under the Midwives' Act.

Laboratory Facilities. Samples of water and materials for Bacteriological examination are sent to the Public Analyst at Norwich.

Legislation in Force. No alteratibn has been made in the Adoptive Acts already in force. These are :-

(1) Public Health (Amendment) Act 1907, Section 95.
(2) Public Health Act 1925. Sections 43, 45, 46 and 47.

SWAFFHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT for year ending DECEMBER 31st, 1936

by the

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Owing to the death of your Medical Officer of Health in December, 1936, I beg to submit an Annual Report on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health for the year 1936 in Circular 1561.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply. Water for domestic use is obtained chiefly from wells. Samples are taken for analysis where pollution is suspected. Full advantage is taken to have wells cleaned out, repaired, and internal face of walls rendered with cement to prevent surface drainage. Shallow wells are deepened. This procedure results in an improvement of the quality and quantity of the water supplies. There is an increasing tendency to drive bores into the deep water bearing stratum, thus making sure of a pure and ample supply.

Number of samples taken during the year.....		25
Analysis of samples.	Satisfactory.....	15
	Unfit.....	10
Wells cleaned out and repaired.....		8
New wells sunk.....		5
New deep borings.....		5
Wells closed.....		Nil

Rivers and Streams. There was no complaint of pollution. The rivers and water courses require cleaning.

Drainage and Sewerage. There is no system of drainage or sewerage in the Area. A number of large houses have their own schemes, but cottages dispose of slops and other waste water on the gardens or into ditches. The open sewers are kept cleansed and obsolete drains are reconstructed. Properly constructed drainage to soakaways or cesspools would be an advantage in cases of property with small ground space.

Closet Accommodation. There are still a number of old, insanitary privy vaults in the District. Most of these are situated on farms and other premises where ample land is available for disposal of the refuse. Progress in obtaining the conversion of these to the more sanitary pail closets continues, especially where they are situated near houses or wells.

Number converted to pail system during the year.....	18
Privy vaults repaired.....	7
Additional Sanitary Conveniences provided.....	4

Scavenging. There is no public system of controlled scavenging in the Area. A collection of tins, bottles, old iron,

and garbage is made twice a year in the parishes of Foulden, Gooderstone and Bradenham. The refuse is dumped into disused pits and the schemes are much appreciated by the occupiers of cottages. This procedure has stopped the throwing of glass, etc. into ditches and on land, which was a source of danger to cattle and children. The Parish Councils are to be congratulated on their efforts to deal with this growing nuisance. Other parishes should follow their example.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The Sanitary Inspector makes frequent visits to each parish. His report in Tabular form is as under :-

Complaints investigated	14
Total number of inspections made under the Public Health & Housing Acts	1069
Number of water samples taken	25
Number of interviews with Owners	76
Number of Milk Samples taken	47
Number of preliminary notices	67
Number of Statutory Notices served -	
(a) Housing Acts	7
(b) Public Health Acts	4
Number of Houses repaired and improved	73
Number of houses disinfected (Infectious disease)	21
Number of houses verminous or dirty cleansed	Nil
Insanitary privy vaults improved	7
Accumulations of refuse	3
Additional Sanitary Conveniences obtained	4
New Drainage Systems	8
Inspection of Slaughterhouses	127
Inspection of Carcases	243
Number of carcases condemned	8
Number of Shops - Butchers	36
Fried Fish	15
General Stores	60
Bakehouses	16
Workshops	28
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	211
Inspections of Factories	6

Shop Act 1934.

Number of Shops in the District	60
These may be classified as under :-	
General Stores	45
General Stores with Post Office	13
Directly attached to the house	55
Lock-up Shops	5
Shops run by occupiers	55
Shops employing Assistants	5

In all cases, except one, the sanitary conveniences and ventilation are suitable and sufficient.

Repairs to Cottages include :-
Improved cooking and washing facilities; windows made larger and to open; ventilated Pantries; additional eaves guttering and down-pipes; ceilings lifted or the under part of bedroom floors cased in. This has helped to improve housing conditions, and the work has been carried out mainly without resorting to statutory measures.

Shortage of Houses. There are many old cottages built of clay wattle and daub and other material which are decayed and unsound. The main defects are dampness rising through broken brick floors, lack of light and ventilation through inadequate size and openings of windows, low ceilings, sunken roofs, unventilated food storage accommodation, insufficient ground for disposal of refuse and, in many cases, contaminated water supply.

The height of the bedrooms average 6 ft. 3 ins. Many are of the leanto type with a mean height of 4 ft. 6 ins. to 5 ft. in which children and sometimes adults of both sexes sleep. The front bedrooms with a leanto at the rear is the total sleeping accommodation in these cases. A general survey has been made throughout the district and a complete list made of the worst of these houses.

Unfit Houses. There are a number of persons still living in houses on which Demolition Orders are operative. These are as under :-

Gt. Cressingham.....	Date of Order.....	12/10/1933.
W.Bradenham.....	" " "	1/5/1935.
Necton.....	" " "	2/4/1935.

Overcrowding. There are many instances where the permitted number of persons coincide with the number in the family. The back kitchens usually contain a copper and wall oven, and although meals taken in this room generally in the summer only, in my opinion these back kitchens may more properly be termed Sculleries and should not be counted.

Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year.....	41
" " Families dwelling therein.....	42
" " Persons " "	245
" " new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....	Nil
" " cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....	9
" " persons concerned in such cases.....	37

Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... Nil.

Accommodation for Elderly Persons. There is need for the bungalow type of dwelling for elderly couples or single persons in nearly all parishes. The provision of some such type of small houses would release several larger houses for families.

Rural Workers Act. Reconstruction schemes were carried out in the following parishes involving eight houses.

North Pickenham.. 1 Beachamwell.. 4 Ashill.. 3.

Work is in progress at Narford and is in hand on eight cottages at Sporle.

New Houses. Number built during the year :-

By the Council..... 3
Other Bodies..... 7

Schools. There are 21 Elementary Schools. The provision for drying clothes is inadequate and should be remedied. The sanitary arrangements are adequate and are kept in good condition.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by BYE-LAWS or REGULATIONS.

Bakehouses.. 7. Mills.. 5. Blacksmith's Shops.. 18. Wheelwright & Joinery Works..14. Brick & Kiln Works.. 2. 1 Knacker's Yard. This is inspected frequently and precautions taken to ensure all diseased carcases being destroyed.

There are no Common Lodging Houses, Tenement houses or Fruit Picking Camps.

Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year.

(1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)
No. of inspections made for the purpose..... 502

(2) No. of dwellinghouses (included under Sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925..... 158
No. of inspections made for the purpose..... 321

(3) No. of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious as to be unfit for human habitation..... 9

(4) No. of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation..... 111

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without serving of Formal Notice.

No. of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... 47

In progress at end of year..... 20

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 & 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1) No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs..... 7

(2) No. of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :-
By Owners..... 7
By Local Authority in default of Owners..... Nil
In progress at end of year..... Nil

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... 4

No. of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices..... 4

By Owners... 4. By Local Authority... Nil.

Proceedings under Sections 19 & 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1) No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 1

(2) No. of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... 13

Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1) No. of separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... 2

(2) No. of separate Tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... Nil.

Proceedings under Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930.

(1) No. of dwellinghouses in respect of which undertakingsto repair were accepted by the Council..... 2

(2) No. of dwellinghouses made fit..... Nil.

(3) Informally demolished (unoccupied)..... 5

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. 129 Producers and Retailers are registered in this district under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

211 visits to Cowsheds and Dairies were made during the year. Conditions have improved in respect to general cleanliness, but the yards in most instances are below the surrounding ground and require filling in and properly draining. Progress is being made in improving these conditions. Stricter methods of cleanliness are being insisted upon. Cowkeepers are now taking more interest in methods of production.

Milk (Special Designation) Orders 1923-1936.

There are 15 Accredited Producers.

No. of samples taken..... 45
Passed..... 40
Failed..... 5

Meat and other Foods.

Your Sanitary Inspector, who is a qualified Meat and Foods Inspector, carries out the inspection of meat and other foods under the Public Health Acts and Meat Regulations.

No. of carcases inspected..... 243
Beasts 27. Sheep 95. Pigs 121.

No. found unfit for food..... 8
Sheep 2 (Pneumonia). Pigs 6, (T.B.5). (Septacaemia 1).

It has not been necessary to "seize" any foods under Sections 116-119 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

There is no Public Slaughterhouse.

No. of Private Slaughterhouses :-
Registered... 8. Licensed... 8.

Long journeys are often made by the Inspector in an endeavour to inspect carcases at the time of killing.

Other Foods. The Bake-houses are clean, and two are up-to-date in appliances and construction.

There are five Fish-frying premises which have modern apparatus, and are kept clean and in good order. Inspections are made of these as often as possible.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1936.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox.	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever.	20	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria.	2	1	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexis.	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Fever.	Nil	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia.	2	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas.	1	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neoanatorum.	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL.	21	1	Nil

Examinations of Pathological and Bacterological specimens are made at the County Laboratory in Norwich without charge. These facilities are being made use of and are appreciated.
Anti Dipth Serum is supplied by the District Council.

Isolation. The best possible arrangements are made to isolate a patient at a small cottage. Special cases are sent to the Norwich City Isolation Hospital, at the expense of the Council. This procedure was unnecessary during the year.

Disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, using Formalin Gas.

Verminous Articles and Premises. The Council adopted Sections 45 abd 46 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for this purpose. Every effort is made to suppress rats, owners of property and occupiers using various means for the destruction of these pests.

Tuberculosis. Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. No action has been necessary.

Public Health Act, 1925 - Section 62.
No action has been necessary.

Tuberculosis. (Continued).

New cases and Mortality during 1936.

Age Periods.	New cases. Respiratory.		New cases. Non-Respiratory.		Deaths. Respiratory.		Deaths. Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
35	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
55	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	5	5	-	1	2	1	-	-

A Register is kept of all cases notified.

Disinfectants are supplied and premises disinfected after deaths.

The County Council are responsible for the administration of the Tuberculosis Orders and their Medical Officer supervises these cases.

Extract from the Report relating to the Administration of the Factory & Workshops Act, 1901, forwarded to the Secretary of State and Home Office.

Premises.	Inspections.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories.	6	-
Workshops.	28	-
Workplaces.	16	-
	50	Nil.

Defects.	Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness.	Nil	Nil
Other nuisances.	Nil	Nil

I have the honour to be,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. EDWARDS.